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Report : Petition of J. Baldwin

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 1847.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RUSK made the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill S. No. 192.]

The Committee of Claims, to whom was recommended the "adverse report" of said committee on the petition of John P. Baldwin, have had the same under consideration, together with the additional evidence placed on file since said report was made, and ask leave to report :

It appears that the Spanish brig "Gil Blas," which had been wrecked a few miles north of Cape Florida, was sold to the petitioner, together with her tackle, &c. ; and that whilst he was engaged in disposing of the various portions of the wreck, the vessel was ordered to be burnt, by an officer of the United States in charge of her, to prevent her falling, as alleged, into the hands of the hostile Indians of that Territory. Without intending to enter at large into the question of the liability of the government where private property is destroyed by its officers, your committee deem it sufficient to state that reference being had to the additional testimony in this case, the proof is such, in their opinion, as to entitle the petitioner to relief. They therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.

& Heiss, print.